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Date of Signature and Deposit: October 15, 2002,

Attorney of Record

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): DAVID C. SCHWARTZ
Serial No.: 09/638,102
Filed: August 11, 2000
For: Chemical Screening System Using Strip Arrays
Group Art Unit: 1641
Examiner: Deborah A. Davis
Docket No.: 960296.97133

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2002, please amend claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 12 as follows:

1. A chemical screening kit comprising:

(a) a library of different filaments of a non-reactive substrate extending along a longitudinal axis and supporting, spaced along that longitudinal axis, a linear array of different, chemically reactive substances exposed on a surface of each filament; and

5 (b) a support frame for receiving and holding a plurality of different filaments being a subset of the library of different filaments, the support frame holding the plurality of different filaments for mutual exposure to a material to be screened.

2. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the filament has a length taken along the longitudinal axis of at least ten times a maximum cross-sectional dimension of the filament taken across the longitudinal axis.

5 2. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the non-reactive substrate is a glass fiber.

6. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support frame holds the filaments transversely spaced in parallel relationship.

7. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support frame holds the filaments transversely spaced along two perpendicular axes.

8. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the filaments include isolating bands of a chemically repellant coating between the chemically reactive substances.

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9. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the filaments include recessed pockets receiving the chemically reactive substances.

10. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the filaments include a marker allowing the filaments to be distinguished.

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12. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 1 wherein the filaments include a marker allowing a given end of the filament to be identified.

13. The chemical screening apparatus of claim 12 wherein the marker is selected from the group of printing and fluorescent material.

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice to further prosecution in a divisional application.

Please add the following new claims 34-36.

34. A chemical screening apparatus comprising:

(a) at least two different strips of a non-reactive substrate extending along a longitudinal axis and supporting, spaced along that longitudinal axis, a linear array of different, chemically reactive substances exposed on a surface of the strip; and

5 (b) a support frame for receiving and holding the strips for mutual exposure to a material to be screened wherein the support frame holds the filaments transversely spaced along two perpendicular axes.

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35. A chemical screening apparatus comprising: